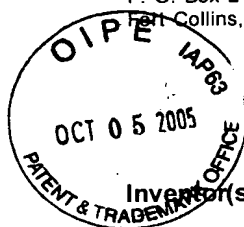


HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
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PATENT APPLICATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10992795-1



IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Alan H. Karp et al.

Confirmation No.: 8480

Application No.: 09/687,436

Examiner: Lilian Vo

Filing Date: 10-13-2000

Group Art Unit: 2195

Title: Flexible Allocation of a Resource

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner For Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is the Appeal Brief in this application with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on 08-04-2005.

The fee for filing this Appeal Brief is (37 CFR 1.17(c)) \$500.00.

(complete (a) or (b) as applicable)

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) apply.

() (a) Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 (fees: 37 CFR 1.17(a)-(d) for the total number of months checked below:

() one month	\$120.00
() two months	\$450.00
() three months	\$1020.00
() four months	\$1590.00

() The extension fee has already been filled in this application.

(X) (b) Applicant believes that no extension of time is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

Please charge to Deposit Account **08-2025** the sum of \$500.00. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.21 inclusive, and any other sections in Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations that may regulate fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

(X) I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. Date of Deposit: 10-03-2005

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Typed Name: Ginger Yount

Signature: Ginger Yount

Respectfully submitted,

Alan H. Karp et al.

By [Signature]

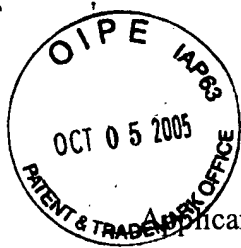
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Alan H. Karp et al.

Serial No.: 09/687,436

Filed: October 13, 2000

For: Flexible Allocation of a
Resource

§ Group Art Unit: 2195

§
§ Examiner: Lilian Vo

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§ Atty. Dkt. No.: 10992795-1
§ (HPC.0160US)
§

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPEAL BRIEF PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R § 41.37

Sir:

The final rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-15, 18, 19, and 22-24 is hereby appealed.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is the Hewlett-Packard Development Company.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

None.

10/06/2005 EFLORES 00000083 082025 09687436

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Date of Deposit: October 3, 2005

I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as **first class mail** with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313.

Ginger Young
Ginger Young

III. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 2, 5-15, 18, 19, and 22-24 have been finally rejected and are the subject of this appeal.

Claims 3, 4, 16, 17, 20, 21, 25, and 26 were objected to as depending from rejected base claims, but were otherwise indicated as containing allowable subject matter. *See* 6/10/2005 Office Action at 5.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

The claims have not been amended after final rejection.

V. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The following provides a concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each of the independent claims involved in the appeal, referring to the specification by page and line number and to the drawings by reference characters, as required by 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(v). Each element of the claims is identified by a corresponding reference to the specification and drawings where applicable. Note that the citation to passages in the specification and drawings for each claim element does not imply that the limitations from the specification and drawings should be read into the corresponding claim element.

Independent claim 1 recites a method for flexible allocation of a resource (Fig. 1:10; Specification, p. 5, lines 4-6, 12-21), comprising the steps of:

associating a soft limit and a hard limit to a potential user of the resource wherein the soft limit guarantees access to the resource by the potential user and the hard limit enables the potential user to exceed the soft limit on a first-come-first-served basis (Specification, p. 7, line 18-p. 8, line 20);

obtaining a request (Fig. 2:200) for allocation of a portion of the resource for the potential user (Specification, p. 8, line 32-p. 9, line 11);

granting the request if the request if allowed would not exceed the soft limit of the potential user; (Fig. 2:104; Specification, p. 9, line 29-p. 10, line 2);

denying the request if the request if allowed would exceed the hard limit of the potential user (Fig. 2:108; Specification, p. 10, lines 5-11);

denying the request if the request if allowed would cause a grand total allocation of the resource for plural users to exceed a high watermark assigned to the resource and granting the request otherwise (Fig. 2:112; Specification, p. 10, lines 14-26).

Independent claim 11 recites a computer system (Fig. 1:100), comprising:

a resource (Fig. 1:10; Specification, p. 5, lines 4-6, 12-21);

a set of resource allocation parameters for the resource including a high watermark for the resource and a hard limit and a soft limit associated with a potential user of the resource (Specification, p. 7, line 18-p. 8, line 30);

a task (Fig. 1:20-30) that generates a request (Fig. 2:200) for allocation of a portion of the resource (Specification, p. 8, line 32-p. 9, line 11);

a resource manager (Fig. 1:12) that in a normal mode grants the request if the request if allowed would not exceed the soft limit (Fig. 2:104, Specification, p. 9, line 29-p. 10, line 2) and denies the request if the request if allowed would exceed the hard limit (Fig. 2:108; Specification, p. 10, lines 5-11) and denies the request if the request if allowed would cause a grand total allocation of the resource for plural users to exceed the high watermark and grants the request otherwise (Fig. 2:112; Specification, p. 10, lines 14-26).

Independent claim 18 recites a method of allocating a resource (Fig. 1:10; Specification, p. 5, lines 4-6, 12-21), comprising:

providing a first limit, a second limit, and a third limit (Specification, p. 7, line 18-p. 8, line 30);

receiving a request from a task (Fig. 1:20-30) associated with a first user for allocation of a portion of the resource (Specification, p. 8, line 32-p. 9, line 11);

granting the request in response to determining that granting of the request would not cause allocation of the resource for the first user to exceed the first limit (Fig. 2:104; Specification, p. 9, line 29-p. 10, line 2);

denying the request in response to determining that granting the request would cause allocation of the resource for the first user to exceed the second limit (Fig. 2:108; Specification, p. 10, lines 5-11); and

denying the request in response to determining that total allocation of the resource to plural users including the first user would exceed the third limit (Fig. 2:112; Specification, p. 10, lines 14-26).

Independent claim 23 recites a computer system (Fig. 1:100) comprising:

a resource (Fig. 1:10; Specification, p. 5, lines 4-6, 12-21);

resource allocation parameters for the resource, the resource allocation parameters including a first limit, a second limit, and a third limit (Specification, p. 7, line 18-p. 8, line 30);

a task (Fig. 1:20-30) associated with a first user to generate a request (Fig. 2:200) for allocation of a portion of the resource (Specification, p. 8, line 32-p. 9, line 11); and

a resource manager (Fig. 1:12) responsive to the request to:

grant the request in response to determining that granting the request would not cause allocation of the resource for the first user to exceed the first limit (Fig. 2:104, Specification, p. 9, line 29-p. 10, line 2);

deny the request in response to determining that granting the request would cause allocation of the resource for the first user to exceed the second limit (Fig. 2:108; Specification, p. 10, lines 5-11); and

deny the request in response to determining that total allocation of the resource to plural users including the first user would exceed the third limit (Fig. 2:112; Specification, p. 10, lines 14-26).

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

- A. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 11-15, 18, 19, and 22-24 Were Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 Over Stephen Mounsey, "Disk Quotas," University of Cambridge, October 9, 1997 (Mounsey) in View of U.S. Patent No. 6,092,163 (Kyler).**
- B. Claims 6, 8, and 10 Were Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 Over Mounsey in View of Kyler and U.S. Patent No. 6,438,704 (Harris).**

VII. ARGUMENT

The claims do not stand or fall together. Instead, Applicants present separate arguments for various independent and dependent claims. Each of these arguments is separately argued below and presented with separate headings and sub-headings as required by 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(vii).

A. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 11-15, 18, 19, and 22-24 Were Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 Over Stephen Mounsey, “Disk Quotas,” University of Cambridge, October 9, 1997 (Mounsey) in View of U.S. Patent No. 6,092,163 (Kyler).

1. Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 14.

It is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established with respect to each of the independent claims 1 and 11 over the asserted combination of Mounsey and Kyler, based on the fact that no motivation or suggestion existed to combine the teachings of Mounsey and Kyler to achieve the claimed subject matter. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2143 (8th ed., Rev. 2), at 2100-129.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

- granting a request if the request if allowed would not exceed a *soft limit* of a potential user,
- denying the request if the request if allowed would exceed a *hard limit* of the potential user, *and*
- denying the request if the request if allowed would cause a grand total allocation of the resource for plural users to exceed a *high watermark*.

The Examiner cited the first paragraph of Mounsey as teaching the granting clause and first denying clause recited in claim 1. 6/10/2005 Office Action at 2-3. Mounsey describes each user being allocated an initial disk quota to place limits on the amount of disk space a user's files can occupy as well as the number of files a user is permitted to own. If usage exceeds a soft limit, then further file creation is permitted for a grace period of seven days beyond which any

attempt to create a new file will fail. Also, Mounsey teaches that exceeding the hard limit results in immediate failure of all further file creation or expansion until usage has been reduced to an acceptable level.

As correctly noted by the Examiner, Mounsey does not disclose the last denying clause of claim 1, namely, denying the request if the request if allowed would cause a *grand total allocation of the resource for plural users* to exceed a *high watermark* assigned to the resource. *Id.* at 3. However, the Examiner relied upon Kyler as teaching the last denying clause of claim 1. *Id.*

It is respectfully submitted that a person of ordinary skill in the art looking to the teachings of Mounsey and Kyler would not have been led to the claimed subject matter. Based on the teachings of Mounsey, a person of ordinary skill would have been taught to provide a grace period for the purpose of granting disk usage after a soft limit has been crossed. There is no suggestion of any desirability to incorporate another technique into the Mounsey disk quota system; more specifically, there is no suggestion of any desirability to deny a request based on a determination that if the request if allowed would cause a *grand total allocation* of the resource for *plural users* to exceed a *high watermark* assigned to the resource. The disk quota system described in Mounsey is focused on per-user limits: each of the soft limit and hard limit are defined for a single user. There is absolutely no indication or suggestion anywhere in Mounsey that it would be desirable or beneficial to deny a request if the request if allowed would cause a grand total allocation of the resource for *plural users* exceeding a high watermark.

Kyler also fails to provide the requisite suggestion to modify the teachings of Mounsey to achieve the claimed invention. Kyler refers to quotas associated with each user, as well as quotas for directories. However, there is no suggestion in Kyler that it would be desirable to use

Kyler's quotas with a soft limit and hard limit similar to what is described in Mounsey. Note that Kyler focuses on per-user and per-directory quotas, with the Kyler system making a decision regarding whether to grant or deny a request based on whether *any* quota would be exceeded. Kyler, 3:31-45; 4:2-4. There is no suggestion anywhere in Kyler of using any type of soft and hard limits.

It is well established law that "[t]he mere fact that the prior art could be so modified would not have made the modification **obvious** unless the prior art suggested the **desirability** of the modification." *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 902, 221 U.S.P.Q. 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984) (emphasis added). As the Federal Circuit has stated, "virtually all [inventions] are combinations of old elements." *In re Rouffet*, 149 F.3d 1350, 1357, 47 U.S.P.Q.2d 1453 (Fed. Cir. 1998). "Most, if not all, inventions are combinations and mostly of old elements." *Id.*

Therefore an examiner may often find every element of a claimed invention in the prior art. If identification of each claimed element in the prior art were sufficient to negate patentability, very few patents would ever issue. Furthermore, rejecting patents solely by finding prior art corollaries for the claimed elements would permit an examiner to use the claimed invention itself as a blueprint for piecing together elements in the prior art to defeat the patentability of the claimed invention. Such an approach would be 'an illogical and inappropriate process by which to determine patentability.'

Id.

Mounsey teaches the use of per-user soft and hard limits. Kyler teaches the use of user quotas and directory quotas, with a request granted or denied based on whether such a request would cause any quota to be exceeded. A person of ordinary skill looking at the disparate teachings of these two references would not have been led to the claimed invention. The Examiner argued that the motivation for combining these references is "found in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art." 6/10/2005 Office Action at 5. However, the Examiner failed to explain what this knowledge includes, and how such knowledge would

have supplied the requisite suggestion to modify the teachings of Mounsey and Kyler to achieve the claimed invention.

The Examiner further argued that “[i]t is considered well known in the art that every resource has its limit (high watermark or third limit).” *Id.* at 6. However, this statement is based on the Examiner’s opinion, not on any objective evidence in the art of record. The two references relied upon by the Examiner describes per-user soft/hard limits (Mounsey) and user and directory quotas (Kyler)—these teachings do not support the Examiner’s blanket statement that “every resource has its limit (high watermark or third limit).”

Objectively, there clearly does not exist any motivation or suggestion to combine the techniques taught in Mounsey and Kyler. The only basis for combining the unrelated elements of Mounsey and Kyler is based upon impermissible hindsight that benefits from the teachings of the present invention. As consistently warned by the Federal Circuit, “teachings of references can be combined *only* if there is some suggestion or incentive to do so.” *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 1075, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) (emphasis in original). “One cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the prior art to deprecate the claimed invention.” *Id.*; *see also In re Fritch*, 972 F.2d 1260, 1265, 23 U.S.P.Q.2d 1780 (Fed. Cir. 1992) (“It is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or ‘template’ to piece together the teachings of the prior art so that the claimed invention is rendered obvious.”).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established because no motivation or suggestion existed to combine the teachings of Mounsey and Kyler.

Independent claim 11 is allowable for similar reasons.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the final rejection of the above claims be reversed.

2. Claims 18, 19, and 22-24.

A *prima facie* case of obviousness has also not been established with respect to independent claims 18 and 23.

With respect to independent claim 18, no motivation or suggestion existed to combine Mounsey and Kyler to achieve the recited method, which includes:

- granting the request in response to determining that granting of the request would not cause allocation of the resource for the first user to exceed the *first limit*;
- denying the request in response to determining that granting the request would cause allocation of the resource for the first user to exceed the *second limit*; and
- denying the request in response to determining that total allocation of the resource to plural users including the first user would exceed the *third limit*.

In Mounsey, only soft and hard limits are defined. For reasons similar to those provided for claim 1 above, there existed no suggestion in either Mounsey or Kyler of adding a third limit to the Mounsey system, where such third limit is used to deny a request if the total allocation of a resource to plural users exceeded the third limit. Therefore, claim 18 is allowable over the asserted combination of Mounsey and Kyler.

Independent claim 23 is allowable over Mounsey and Kyler for reasons similar to those of claim 18.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the final rejection of the above claims be reversed.

3. Claims 2, 12, and 15.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 12 and 15 depend from claim 11 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 11.

Claim 2 further recites that the step of denying the request if the request if allowed would cause a grand total allocation of the resource for the plural users to exceed a high watermark further comprises the step of *entering a reduction mode for handling a subsequent request for allocation of the resource*.

The Examiner cited the first paragraph of Mounsey as disclosing the feature of entering a reduction mode. 6/10/2005 Office Action at 3. However, note that the first paragraph of Mounsey talks about modification of disk usage based on exceeding a *soft limit* and a *hard limit*. There is no suggestion in this cited passage of Mounsey of entering a reduction mode for handling a subsequent request for allocation of the resource that is part of the step of denying the request if the request if allowed would cause a *grand total allocation* of the resource for the plural users to exceed a *high watermark*.

The *prima facie* case of obviousness against claim 2 is defective for this additional reason.

Similarly, with respect to claim 12, the cited passage of Mounsey does not disclose or suggest a resource manager to switch to a reduction mode if the request if allowed would cause a grand total allocation for the plural users to exceed the *high watermark*.

With respect to claim 15, the cited passage of Mounsey does not teach or suggest a resource manager entering a reduction mode for handling a subsequent request for allocation of the resource if the request if allowed would exceed the *high watermark*.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the final rejection of the above claims be reversed.

B. Claims 6, 8, and 10 Were Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 Over Mounsey in View of Kyler and U.S. Patent No. 6,438,704 (Harris).

1. Claims 6, 8, and 10.

In view of the defective obviousness rejections of base claims over Mounsey and Kyler, it is respectfully submitted that the obviousness rejections of dependent claims 6, 8, and 10 over Mounsey, Kyler, and Harris are also defective.

Therefore, reversal of the final rejection of the above claims is respectfully requested.

VIII. CONCLUSION

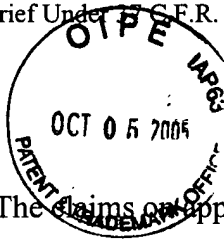
In view of the foregoing, reversal of all final rejections and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Oct 3, 2005



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APPENDIX OF APPEALED CLAIMS

The claims on appeal are:

1 1. A method for flexible allocation of a resource, comprising the steps of:
2 associating a soft limit and a hard limit to a potential user of the resource wherein
3 the soft limit guarantees access to the resource by the potential user and the hard limit enables
4 the potential user to exceed the soft limit on a first-come-first-served basis;
5 obtaining a request for allocation of a portion of the resource for the potential
6 user;
7 granting the request if the request if allowed would not exceed the soft limit of the
8 potential user;
9 denying the request if the request if allowed would exceed the hard limit of the
10 potential user;
11 denying the request if the request if allowed would cause a grand total allocation
12 of the resource for plural users to exceed a high watermark assigned to the resource and granting
13 the request otherwise.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of denying the request if the request if
2 allowed would cause a grand total allocation of the resource for the plural users to exceed a high
3 watermark further comprises the step of entering a reduction mode for handling a subsequent
4 request for allocation of the resource.

1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of assigning the soft limit to
2 the potential user.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of assigning the soft limit comprises the
2 step of assigning the soft limit in response to a class associated with the potential user.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of assigning the hard limit to
2 the potential user.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of assigning the hard limit comprises the
2 step of assigning the hard limit in response to a class associated with the potential user.

1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of assigning the high
2 watermark to the resource.

1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of allocating a portion of the
2 resource for system use.

1 11. A computer system, comprising:
2 a resource;
3 a set of resource allocation parameters for the resource including a high
4 watermark for the resource and a hard limit and a soft limit associated with a potential user of the
5 resource;
6 a task that generates a request for allocation of a portion of the resource;
7 a resource manager that in a normal mode grants the request if the request if
8 allowed would not exceed the soft limit and denies the request if the request if allowed would
9 exceed the hard limit and denies the request if the request if allowed would cause a grand total
10 allocation of the resource for plural users to exceed the high watermark and grants the request
11 otherwise.

1 12. The computer system of claim 11, wherein the resource manager switches to a
2 reduction mode if the request if allowed would cause the grand total allocation for the plural
3 users to exceed the high watermark such that the resource manager grants all subsequent requests
4 that reduce a consumption of the resource while in the reduction mode.

1 13. The computer system of claim 11, wherein the soft limit is assigned to the
2 potential user to guarantee access to the resource by the potential user.

1 14. The computer system of claim 11, wherein the hard limit is assigned to the
2 potential user to enable the potential user to exceed the soft limit on a first-come-first-served
3 basis.

1 15. The computer system of claim 11, wherein the resource manager enters a
2 reduction mode for handling a subsequent request for allocation of the resource if the request if
3 allowed would exceed the high watermark.

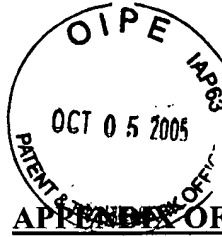
1 18. A method of allocating a resource, comprising:
2 providing a first limit, a second limit, and a third limit;
3 receiving a request from a task associated with a first user for allocation of a
4 portion of the resource;
5 granting the request in response to determining that granting of the request would
6 not cause allocation of the resource for the first user to exceed the first limit;
7 denying the request in response to determining that granting the request would
8 cause allocation of the resource for the first user to exceed the second limit; and
9 denying the request in response to determining that total allocation of the resource
10 to plural users including the first user would exceed the third limit.

1 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising granting the request in response to
2 determining that granting the request would cause allocation of the resource for the first user to
3 exceed the first limit but the total allocation of the resource to the plural users including the first
4 user would not exceed the third limit.

1 22. The method of claim 18, wherein the first, second, and third limits are different.

1 23. A computer system comprising:
2 a resource;
3 resource allocation parameters for the resource, the resource allocation parameters
4 including a first limit, a second limit, and a third limit;
5 a task associated with a first user to generate a request for allocation of a portion
6 of the resource; and
7 a resource manager responsive to the request to:
8 grant the request in response to determining that granting the request
9 would not cause allocation of the resource for the first user to exceed the first limit;
10 deny the request in response to determining that granting the request
11 would cause allocation of the resource for the first user to exceed the second limit; and
12 deny the request in response to determining that total allocation of the
13 resource to plural users including the first user would exceed the third limit.

1 24. The computer system of claim 23, wherein the resource manager is responsive to
2 the request to grant the request in response to determining that granting the request would cause
3 allocation of the resource for the first user to exceed the first limit but the total allocation of the
4 resource to the plural users including the first user would not exceed the third limit.



APPENDIX OF CLAIMS
INDICATED AS CONTAINING ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the reduction mode comprises the step of:
2 granting the subsequent request if the subsequent request if allowed would not
3 exceed a soft limit associated with a potential user associated with the subsequent request;
4 denying the subsequent request if the subsequent request if allowed would exceed
5 a hard limit associated with the potential user associated with the subsequent request;
6 denying the subsequent request if the grand total allocation of the resource for the
7 plural users is above a low watermark associated with the resource and granting the subsequent
8 request otherwise.

1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of assigning the low
2 watermark to the resource.

1 16. The computer system of claim 15, wherein the resource manager in the reduction
2 mode grants the subsequent request if the subsequent request if allowed would not exceed a soft
3 limit associated with a potential user associated with the subsequent request and denies the
4 subsequent request if the subsequent request if allowed would exceed a hard limit associated
5 with the potential user associated with the subsequent request and denies the subsequent request
6 if the grand total allocation of the resource for the plural users is above a low watermark
7 associated with the resource and grants the subsequent request if the grand total allocation for the
8 plural users is below the low watermark.

1 17. The computer system of claim 16, wherein the resource manager switches to the
2 normal mode if the grand total allocation for the plural users is below the low watermark.

1 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising entering a reduction mode in
2 response to determining that the total allocation of the resource to the plural users would exceed
3 the third limit, the method when in reduction mode comprising:

4 in response to a second request from the task associated with the first user for
5 allocation of a portion of the resource,

6 granting the second request in response to determining that granting the
7 second request would not cause allocation of the resource to the first user to exceed the first
8 limit,

9 denying the second request in response to determining that granting the
10 second request would cause allocation of the resource to the first user to exceed the second limit,
11 and

12 denying the second request in response to determining that granting the
13 second request would cause the total allocation of the resource to the plural users to be above a
14 fourth limit, the fourth limit lower than the third limit.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the method when in reduction mode further
2 comprises:

3 granting the second request in response to determining that granting the second
4 request would cause allocation of the resource for the first user to exceed the first limit but the
5 total allocation of the resource for the plural users to be less than the fourth limit; and

6 exiting the reduction mode in response to determining that granting the second
7 request would cause the total allocation of the resource for the plural users to be less than the
8 fourth limit.

1 25. The computer system of claim 24, wherein the resource manager is adapted to
2 cause the resource manager to enter a reduction mode in response to determining that the total
3 allocation of the resource to the plural users would exceed the third limit, the resource manager
4 when in the reduction mode to:

5 in response to a second request from the task for allocation of a portion of the
6 resource,

7 grant the second request in response to determining that granting the
8 second request would not cause allocation of the resource to the first user to exceed the first
9 limit,

10 deny the second request in response to determining that granting the
11 second request would cause allocation of the resource to the first user to exceed the second limit,
12 and

13 deny the second request in response to determining that granting the
14 second request would cause the total allocation of the resource to the plural users to be above a
15 fourth limit, the fourth limit lower than the third limit.

1 26. The computer system of claim 25, wherein the resource manager when in
2 reduction mode is adapted to further:

3 grant the second request in response to determining that granting the second
4 request would cause allocation of the resource for the first user to exceed the first limit but the
5 total allocation of the resource for the plural users to be less than the fourth limit; and

6 exit the reduction mode in response to determining that granting the second
7 request would cause the total allocation of the resource for the plural users to be less than the
8 fourth limit.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.